GROVER CLEVELAND *in the* SUNSET *of his* BUSY LIFE

WASHINGTON.—The interest in the personality of Grover Cleveland has naturally recalled many incidents of the days when his was the most forceful figure in American public life. Nothing which he ever did while president attracted more attention than the famous message he sent to congress in December, 1895, on the subject of Great Britain's controversy with Venezuela over the boundary between the latter country and British Guiana. In an interview with a New York Times correspondent Hilary A. Herbert, then Mr. Cleveland's secretary of the navy, now for the first time tells the true inwardness of that historic episode.

"The foundation for Mr. Cleveland's celebrated Venezuelan message," said Mr. Herbert, "was the note of Secretary of State Olney to Lord Salisbury, the British minister for foreign affairs. That note was written during the congressional recess, three months before congress convened, and before Mr. Cleveland's message was prepared. The Olney note was drafted after a consultation between the secretary of state and Mr. Cleveland during the summer at Great Gables on Buzzard's bay. Mr. Olney went there, as I have always understood, to confer with the president about the Venezuelan question. The note was submitted to every member of the cabinet. I remember distinctly I was in Washington that summer and a copy of the note came to me and Mr. Carlisle, the secretary of the treasury, and Mr. Lamont, the secretary of war, and we considered the policy together.

"I remember that as the note developed it almost took my breath away, and I was inclined to oppose its presentation, but before the reading was finished I realized its force and value and I heartily approved it. Between Mr. Carlisle, Mr. Lamont and myself some suggestions were made as to amendments, perhaps slight, and my understanding is that these amendments were subsequently adopted. All the cabinet knew for three or four months before congress convened that this bombshell had been prepared. Nevertheless, it was kept absolutely secret. Nobody knew anything about it. As Mr. Cleveland himself said, he did not believe in doing public business on the sidewalk. The message that Mr. Cleveland afterwards wrote was prepared by himself just after he had returned from an outing. He had gone down the river on a fishing excursion, and when he got back the message was written, occupying him for two days. The message was read to the cabinet before it was sent in. I do not remember whether any suggestions were asked or offered, the message being a condensation of the very powerful Olney note."

"Did you anticipate that war would result from the fessage?"

"No, I did not think so, because I did not think there was enough in the controversy to cause a war between the two countries which were so closely allied in blood and business. Of course, such measures as could be taken with the means in hand to be prepared in case of trouble were taken by the navy department, but there was neither time nor money nor opportunity to make any extensive preparations."

A REGULAR CHURCHGOER.

CLEVELAND'S father was a Presbyterian minister. When the son was elected president the Rev. Dr. Sunderland of the First Presbyterian church in Washington determined to make every effort to induce Mr. Cleveland to attend his church. Immediately after the inauguration Dr. Sunderland called upon the president, and the latter agreed to be enrolled among his parishioners. Cleveland was very regular in attendance. Always a large crowd assembled in front of the church to see him entering and leaving. The crowd was amazed to find that when the carriage stopped Cleveland would leave the vehicle and start for the door, while some one else would have to assist Mrs. Cleveland to alight. Then she would hasten after her husband and, catching up with him, the two would walk up the aisle together to their pew.

A BAD CAMPAIGNER.

CLEVELAND was known always as a bad campaigner. It was an extremely difficult thing to get him to take an active part in politics, even when he was running for office himself. When he was nominated for mayor of Buffalo, a quarter of a century ago, his political managers were in despair because of his indifference. The future president would promise to speak, but when the time came he would fail to appear, and then it was necessary to send carriages for him and drag him to the meeting. But his popularity was so great that he experienced little difficulty in polling a large vote for mayor. This campaign occurred during a time of political upheaval, when Buffalo was one of the doubtful cities of the state. From the close of the war up to the '90s no one could foretell just how the municipal elections in Buffalo would turn out. Cleveland was made candidate for governor particularly because of his vigorous administration of the mayor's office. His most conspicuous act was the veto of an ordinance of the council granting a contract for cleaning the city to personal friends. Cleveland regarded this contract as against public policy, and, notwithstanding the pressure exercised by his closest advisers, he disapproved the measure, and by this act attracted the attention of the state. There is not the slightest doubt that what Mr. Cleveland did on that occasion had a greater bearing on his future political career than anything he had done.

A FRIEND OF THE PEN.

MR. CLEVELAND took a great interest in pension legislation. Observing a discriminating attitude, which was most important, both for the public treasury and from the point of view of those veterans of unblemished records, it was his custom to examine each act and all the facts connected with the claim of the beneficiary with the greatest care. If he found a flaw in the record he would put a veto on the back of the act in his own handwriting. Cleveland rarely dictated. He found his ideas flowed better when his pen touched the paper. His handwriting was small, but clear. It was like copper-plate. Probably no president of recent times used a pen with as much frequency as Cleveland.

The painstaking character of Mr. Cleveland's work will be realized when it is known that he made a personal examination of every paper that came before him. This particularly was true of the records of courts-martial of officers of the army and navy. Whether the defendant was an ensign or an admiral, a lieutenant or a general, he could depend on Mr. Cleveland to give fair consideration to the report of his trial. It frequently happened that Mr. Cleveland detected flaws in the proceedings of the court, in which case the officer benefited either in the way of modification of his sentence or a new trial.

EMBARRASSING FRIENDSHIPS.

ONE of the remarkable traits of Mr. Cleveland's character lay in his ability to shake himself loose from embarrassing friendships upon reaching a position where he was charged with the responsibility of filling federal offices. Probably this was most strongly illustrated during the months following his inauguration as president, when Washington was crowded with hungry place hunters. Two days before the 4th of March, 1885, about 300 Buffalonians came to the capital, marched from the freight depot on Virginia avenue to Odd Fellows' hall on Seventh street, and took up their quarters in the latter building. This contingent lustily carried out the ostensible purpose of its visit to "Whoop it up for Grove." The main object of every man, however, was to secure a job under the federal government. Their ambitions ranged from collector of internal revenue down to driver of the mail wagons. The candidates remained in Washington seven days and then departed without a single plum in their possession. Of that noble band of 300 none secured an appointment from Mr. Cleveland during either of his administrations.

The most conspicuous example, perhaps, of Mr. Cleveland's unwillingness to consider friends for public office was that furnished by the case of the late Daniel M. Lockwood. Lockwood placed the name of Cleveland before Democratic conventions for mayor, governor and president. As his reward he sought appointment as United States minister at Madrid. He secured enough indorsements to qualify himself for a cabinet office. Mr. Cleveland had other views, however, with the result that the close friendship between the two men was ruptured, and Mr. Lockwood did not renominate Cleveland in the convention of 1888. The breach was apparently unclosable, but at last Mr. Cleveland tendered Lockwood the position of district attorney for the northern district of New York. This was indignantly declined at first, but subsequently accepted for the benefit of Lockwood's young associate, William B. Hoyt.

CLEVELAND'S HOME LIFE.

ON ONE occasion a New York paper which was especially virulent in its treatment of Mr. Cleveland printed a story to the effect that on the previous night he had gotten beastly drunk and had kicked his wife down stairs, bruising her terribly and blacking both her eyes.

Those who knew the charming relations which existed between the president and his wife were indignant at the publication. That it was absolutely false I quickly discovered for myself. Crossing the White House grounds, I saw Mrs. Cleveland bending over a bed of pansies in which she took special interest. She was a beautiful picture that morning. Her eyes were as clear as crystal, showing that she had slept well, and her skin without a blemish. The alleged brutality of Mr. Cleveland towards his wife was frequently described by the paper referred to, but never did I see any justification or foundation for the statements it published. Because the president and Mrs. Cleveland refused to exhibit their children to the gaping crowd reports were published that they were idiots and that one of them was blind. These reports were not only false, but so cruel as to arouse the hearty indignation of the friends of the president and his wife.

It has been often said, and with justice, that Mrs. Cleveland made an ideal "First Lady of the Land." Probably Mrs. Cleveland did what no other wife of a president attempted. At receptions she would take a step forward and shake hands with the caller, returning to her position before saluting the next in line. This was a task which only a woman of tremendous physical endurance could carry out successfully. At the New Year's receptions, for example, 9,000 persons greeted the president and his wife. So that Mrs. Cleveland took 9,000 steps and shook hands 9,000 times on each of these occasions.

First Photograph of Ex-President Cleveland and His Family Taken at Their Princeton Home.

From stereograph, copyright, 1907, by Underwood and Underwood, N. Y.

AS FRIEND AND LAWYER.

CLEVELAND was more of a sociable man than a social one. He enjoyed few social relations in Buffalo, rarely visiting the houses of friends. At the same time he was most convivial with his male acquaintances. He was fond of playing cards in his youth and spent most of his time with the boys. As a lawyer he seldom practised in court, and, while never regarded as a close student, he had the facility of grasping a legal problem, which made him invaluable as counsel. His practice was confined almost altogether to his office, his associates making the arguments in court.

PRESIDENTIAL LOVEMAKING.

ACCORDING to a story in circulation at the time, Daniel S. Lamont was the John Alden of Grover Cleveland in connection with the latter's marriage. Lamont was sent by the president to Buffalo to ask Miss Folsom to marry his chief. There was no "Speak for yourself, John," as Miss Folsom accepted the offer. Miss Folsom, of course, knew her future husband very well, as she had been his ward and had come into frequent and intimate contact with him.

SOLDIER FATHERS

'Tis an old faded uniform
I love;
A sabre, long since sheathed
And rusted in its scabbard,
A cap of blue,
A pair of dingy chevrons.
These tell to me a story old as time—
Of love of country,
Of war and strife and sacrifice
That right might live.
How often, as a boy beside his knee,
Did the wearer of these vestments
Of these war implements
Tell me of those days of carnage,
Of the long wearisome marches,
Of the midnight vigils of the lone sentry,
Of the charge,
Of the deadly whistle of shot and shell,
Of the sabre thrust,
Of all those things that try men's souls
And heroes make.

To-day he sleeps beneath a modest monument,
And o'er that grave
The flag he fought for floats.
The garlands there
Are placed by kindly hands and strange.
For him
The last taps, the last drum beat has sounded.
He is but one
Of countless thousands who have broken ranks.
And on this May day
That love of country which they taught by deeds
Bids us cease our labors
And pay reverence to our hero dead.
With flowers and flags
We offer tribute to their memory
On this, their day.

We are a mighty nation; mighty in war and mighty in peace. Strong as the world knows strength, and it is our patriotism, our love of country, that makes us strong.

For the love of country that possesses us we are indebted to our soldier fathers, to the tales of warfare we have listened to at their knees. The boy who has heard with staring eyes and bated breath the story of the charge, of the hand to hand encounter, has inhaled patriotism with every sentence. These tales have made of him a man, a citizen, a patriot. They have attuned his spirit to the beat of the drum and the blare of the bugle.

How many, many of these stories have been told to me, but as I look back upon them now, and count them o'er and o'er again, those of one type seem the most pleasing. They are not the stories of death, of shot and shell, and sabre thrust; they are more like stories of peace.

It was at Corinth. All day and well into the night the battle had waged. When the scream of the shells ceased and the long battle lines laid down upon their arms, the sentries in blue and gray kept touch. Tired eyes made effort to pierce the darkness, ears were strained for the least suspicious sound. From out of the blackness of the night there came a voice.

"Yank, have you any water? I'm almost dead for a drink."

"Plenty, Johnny. Come over and get it."

Both were battling for the right, as they saw the right. Both were true to their cause, seeking every advantage. Both were men, true-hearted chivalrous men. There was no fear of treachery on either side as they advanced into the darkness to meet and drink from the same canteen.

Such has always been the type of the American soldier. He goes to battle not as a paid murderer, but as a patriot. He is magnanimous, chivalrous—a man. He fights not for vengeance, but for a cause. He fights fair, as fair as war can be made. He has taught the whole world a new definition of the word "soldier."

—WRIGHT A. PATTERSON.

UNKNOWN BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The First Volunteer

THE first volunteer for the civil war was Dr. Charles F. Rand of Washington, D. C. A certificate in the capitol of New York state attests the priority of Dr. Rand's tender of his services. This certificate is signed by the mayor and two prominent citizens of Batavia, N. Y., and also by the county clerk and the sheriff of Genesee county, stating that in less than ten minutes after the call for troops by President Lincoln, April 15, 1861, for 75,000 men the name of Charles F. Rand was enrolled as a soldier.

Among the war records at Washington there is none of an earlier enlistment than that of Dr. Rand and the honor has therefore been given him by common consent.

Not only was Dr. Rand the first volunteer for the civil war, but he was also the first soldier to win the congressional medal of honor for distinguished gallantry in action.

This event occurred at Blackburn's Ford, Va., in less than three months after his enlistment. His command was ordered to retreat, and every man obeyed save young Rand, at the time but 18 years of age. The rest of his battalion of 500 men was swept in disorder from the field, but Rand held his ground, despite the fact that the field was plowed by shot and shell all about him. The enemy finally absolutely refused to fire at the boy standing bravely alone and firing at them as coolly as if he had a regiment at his back. Rand then crept across the field and a deep ravine and joined the command of Gen. A. H. Barnum.

The congressional medal of honor was not instituted until a year later, and the first one struck off was presented to Rand for his distinguished gallantry on that memorable day at Blackburn's Ford.

Memorial Day Address.

Perhaps the most remarkable Memorial day address in the country was that delivered at Marysville, Kan., by Dr. Williamson F. Boyakin, who was the Grand Army orator on the 100th anniversary of his birth. In matter and delivery the speech is said to have been far above the average.